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— The April number of the Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society contains Rev. Mr. Dallinger's notable address on the life-history of the monads, illustrated by three excellent plates. He concludes that the vital processes in these lowest organisms are as "orderly, rigid and immutable as in the most complex organisms," though as in higher animals allowing free scope to the action of natural selection.

— The *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* for January last publishes an article from the *Illustrated Melbourne Post* for Sept. 24, 1864, in which it is stated that about ten months previous an *Ornithorhynchus* laid "two eggs which were white, soft and without shell."

— ERRATA.—In Vol. XVIII, p. 1259, and Vol. XIX, p. 277, it is stated that two trilobites have been discovered in the Cretaceous rocks of Australia. This is an unfortunate error which our readers will please correct.

P. 293, lines 10 from top and 2 from bottom, for *emarginate* read *marginate*.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.—This body met in Washington, D. C., April 21st. The following papers were read :

1. Methods of measuring the cubic capacity of Crania, by J. S. Billings and Dr. Matthews, U.S.A.
2. On winged insects from a palæontological point of view, by S. H. Scudder of Cambridge, Mass.
3. On the Syncarida, a hitherto undescribed group of extinct malacostracous Crustacea, by A. S. Packard of Providence, R. I.
4. On the Gampsonychidæ, an undescribed family of fossil schizopod Crustacea, by A. S. Packard of Providence, R. I.
5. On the Anthracaridæ, a family of Carboniferous macrurous decapod Crustacea, allied to the Eryonidæ, by A. S. Packard of Providence, R. I.
6. On the coral reefs of the Sandwich islands, by Alexander Agassiz.
7. On the origin of the fauna and flora of the Sandwich islands, by Alexander Agassiz.
8. On the classification of natural silicates, by T. Sterry Hunt of Montreal, Canada.
9. On the cause of the progressive movement of areas of low pressure, by Elias Loomis of Yale College.
10. On the ratio of the meter to the yard, by C. B. Comstock.
11. An account of certain stars observed by Flamsteed, supposed to have disappeared, by C. H. F. Peters, Hamilton College, N. Y.
12. On the submarine geology of the approaches to New York, by J. E. Hilgard and A. Lindenkohl.
13. A biographical notice of the late Dr. J. J. Woodward, U.S.A., was read at this meeting by J. S. Billings.
14. The orders of fishes, by Theodore Gill.
15. On the organization of the tribe, by J. W. Powell.
16. On certain lunarine qualities due to the action of Jupiter, and discovered by E. Nelson, by G. W. Hill.
17. On the Pre-tertiary Vertebrata of Brazil, by E. D. Cope.
18. On the phylogeny of the placental Mammalia, by E. D. Cope.
19. On some recent observations upon the rotation and surface markings of Jupiter, by C. A. Young.
20. On the value of the Ohm, by H. A. Rowland.
21. On the vanadium minerals : Vanadinite, endlicheite and descloizite.

ite, and on iodyrite, from the Sierra Grande mine, Lake valley, New Mexico, by F. A. Genth and Gerhard von Rath. 22. On the total solar eclipse of August 28th, 1886, by A. N. Skinner (by invitation). 23. On the evolution and homologies of the flukes of Cetaceans and Sirenians, by Theodore Gill and John A. Ryder. 24. Biographical notice of Gen. A. A. Humphreys, U.S.A., by H. L. Abbot. 25. Chemical action in a magnetic field, by Ira Remsen. 26. On the measurement of hearing power, by A. Graham Bell. 27. On the possibility of obtaining echoes from ships and icebergs in a fog, by A. Graham Bell and Mr. F. Della Torre. 28. Biographical notice of William Stimpson, by Theodore Gill.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the council: Professors Gibbs, Baird and Young, Gen. Meigs, and Messrs. Hilgard and Scudder. The following gentlemen were elected members: Henry Mitchell, Wm. A. Rogers, Edw. S. Holden, F. W. Putnam, Arnold Hague.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, April 11.—Hon. John W. Hoyt delivered a lecture entitled Wyoming: its resources and wonders (illustrated by stereopticon views).

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, April 4.—The following communications were made: Professor C. A. White, On vegetable cells; Mr. Frank H. Knowlton, remarks on some Alaskan willows and birches; Dr. Frank Baker, Muscular equalization.

April 18.—Dr. D. E. Salmon and Dr. Theobald Smith, Koch's method of isolating and cultivating Bacteria, as used in the laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry; Mr. A. B. Johnson, The shipworm and the sheeps-head; Mr. G. Brown Goode, Remarks on the velocity of animal motion; Mr. Romyn Hitchcock, Exhibition of a preparation of the "comma Bacillus" of cholera.

May 2.—Dr. Thomas Taylor, The white rust of cabbages, *Cystopus candidus* (with illustrations); Mr. H. W. Henshaw, hybrid quail; Mr. W. H. Dall, Notes on a journey in Florida.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, April 6.—George F. Kunz made some general remarks on the mining and cutting of gems (illustrated with a series of lantern slides).

April 13.—The language of the ancient Egyptians and its monumental records (illustrated with lanterns), by Dr. Charles E. Mordhehnke.

April 20.—Professor D. Cady Eaton lectured on the Canterbury cathedral.

April 27.—Cotton in Brazil: its history, methods of cultivation and the insects affecting it, by Mr. John C. Branner; Mr. G. F. Kunz presented some brief notes on a remarkable meteorite.

May 4.—Notes on building stones: No. 2, Limestones, by Dr. Arthur H. Elliott.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, April 1.—Professor G. F. Wright gave an account of his latest investigations upon the

terminal moraine from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, describing also the buried forests in Southern Ohio, and the terraces of the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers, supposed to be connected with the ancient ice dam at Cincinnati (numerous original stereopticon views were shown in illustration); Mr. S. H. Scudder spoke of the geological history of insects.

April 15.—Mr. Percival Lowell read a paper on the mythology of the Koreans (stereopticon views were shown in illustration).

May 6.—Mr. George H. Barton gave an account of the ancient land-system of the Hawaiians.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, May 13.—A paper by Mr. F. H. Chapin, on An ascent of the Rothhorn was presented; Mr. S. H. Scudder gave an account of a winter excursion to Tuckerman's ravine.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, March 3.—Mr. Meehan called attention to a specimen of *Cypripedium insigne* which had developed two flowers instead of the usual one, and was thus on the way toward a spicate inflorescence. The upper three-lobed petal had also become one-lobed, and the labellum in the upper flower was only twice instead of three times, the length of the column. Mr. Meehan considered such changes as nature's efforts to establish new forms.

Dr. Leidy had recently received from Florida remains of a species of Rhinoceros, including the crown of the last upper molar. The latter indicated a species not before described, which he proposed to name *Rhinocerus proterus*. The speaker expressed his belief that *Dinoceras* Marsh, was equivalent with *Uintatherium* Leidy.

Mr. A. H. Smith gave an account of a boring on Black's island, below Fort Mifflin, Delaware river. The boring passed through the following deposits. Alluvial mud seventy-five feet; dark gravel, six feet; white tenacious clay, two feet; beach-sand forty-seven feet; gravel, two feet, and then again beach-sand.

Professor Heilprin thought that, in the light of this boring, the beach-sand might be cretaceous. The same speaker then read a continuation of his paper on disputed geological and palæontological points.

March 10.—Dr. Leidy exhibited the upper molar tooth of a Hippotherium, belonging to an animal of about half the size of the horse. The example was from Florida, and in the same collection with it were some fossil crocodile bones, and the end of the phalanx of an extinct llama or camel, probably indicating new species.

Professor Heilprin stated that he had made a careful microscopic examination of the sand from the boring below Fort Mifflin, but had found no traces of Foraminifera. The roundness of the grains might indicate sea-sand.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, Sept. 19, 1884.—The Secretary presented a series of thermometrical observations taken at Quito, Ecuador, between Sept. 17, 1858, and June 18, 1859, by Mr. C. B. Brockway.

Oct. 3.—Mr. Wall exhibited a full-size canvas tracing of a large group of Indian pictures cut on the top and sides of a half-buried block of sandstone, lying near the bluff of the Monongahela valley, in Fayette county, Pa., 290 feet above the river. Photographs of this and also of carvings on the shore of the same river, near Geneva, and of a carved rock on the Evansville turnpike, West Virginia, were also exhibited.

Mr. Lesley read a paper upon the possible origin of the double crown of Egypt; and also exhibited a square pipe of limonite, deposited against the walls of a vertical drain at the Eagle shaft, near Pottsville.

Dr. Syle presented a Chinese translation of Herschell's *Outlines of Astronomy*, published at Shanghai, Dec., 1859.

Oct. 17.—Dr. D. G. Brinton presented a communication upon the language and ethnographic position of the Xinka (Shinka) Indians, with two vocabularies of three dialects. Mr. Ashburner read some notes upon the origin and dimensions of the Natural Bridge of Virginia. A communication upon the doubtful character of Professor Lewis's alleged continuous range of trap through Southern Pennsylvania, was made by Dr. Frazer.

Nov. 7.—Dr. Syle made a verbal communication on the structure of the Chinese language and exhibited copies of the Shanghai Chinese *Illustrated News*. Professor Cope presented a paper by Miss Helen C. D. Abbott, entitled *An analysis of the bark of the Fuquieria splendens*. Professor Cope proposed to communicate A revision of the Reptilia and Batrachia of Mexico and Central America.

Nov. 21.—J. J. Stevenson presented Notes on the geological structures of Tazewell, Russell, Wise, Smith and Washington counties, Virginia; and Professor Daniel Kirkwood read a communication upon The limits of stability of nebulous planets.

Dec. 5.—Professor J. J. Stevenson communicated Notes on metamorphism; Dr. P. Frazer exhibited and explained his invention of an improvement on the pocket compass; and Mr. Ashburner exhibited a new map of the anthracite region.

Dec. 19.—Professor Cope read by title Twelfth contribution to the herpetology of Tropical America.

Mr. Ashburner communicated some notes on the recent publications of the Second geological survey of Pennsylvania.